*"I just seen it as a vacation for myself."*
**–Ronald Lowder**

to Germany and Mexico arranged by a top official of Management Services of Illinois.

Asked if a 1993 trip to a Mexican resort with ex-MSI owner Michael Martin and their girlfriends was a bribe, the administrator, Ronald Lowder, replied: "No. I just seen it as a

state contract.

Lowder, a 21-year Public Aid employee who quit the agency to join MSI in 1995, spent Wednesday answering friendly questions from his attorney, Peter Wise.

Wise portrayed Lowder as a conscientious

scheme that b
of at least $7.

Federal pr
trips MSI off
Curtis Flemin

# UPS talks to resume

## Teamsters chief voices skepticism at rally here

By Francine Knowles
Business Reporter

The Teamsters and United Parcel Service of America agreed Wednesday to try to end a nationwide strike, which had business leaders calling for federal intervention.

Shortly after Teamsters President Ron Carey addressed rank-and-filers at a rally Wednesday in Chicago, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service said it had asked both sides to resume talks, and both agreed.

Teamsters spokesman Rand Wilson said talks are expected to resume in Washington this afternoon, but emphasized it is premature to end the walkout.

"We're not going to make any predictions about the meeting and what's going to come out of it," UPS spokesman Norman Black said. But he said the basis for discussion should be the company's "last, best and final offer" that the union had rejected, prompting

Turn to next page

Rich Hein/Sun-Times

**Teamsters President Ron Carey addresses striking workers at a rally Wednesday outside a UPS site at 1400 S. Jefferson. "We're really fighting for America's future," he said.**

# Ex-aide defends MSI trips

**Continued from previous page**

buy influence within the state agency.

Although Lowder said Wednesday that he paid his own airfare and lodging on the Mexican vacation, prosecutors presented evidence earlier in the trial that MSI paid for $530 in hotel bills incurred by Lowder and his girlfriend.

Later in 1993, Lowder testified, he accepted an invitation from Martin to travel to Germany to visit a BMW automobile plant.

Lowder said he paid his own way after consulting with his boss, Fleming, who "indicated if I paid my share of expenses, it shouldn't be a problem."

When prosecutors begin their cross-examination of Lowder today, they are likely to question his claims of making two payments for the trip, including one after a criminal investigation into MSI had begun. Estimating his share of the trip to be worth $3,400, Lowder testified that around the time of the travel, he sent a money order or cashier's check for that amount to a New York travel agency. But he acknowledged neither the travel agency nor the Springfield bank where the payment was cut have proof of the transaction.

In October, 1995, six months after a criminal investigation into MSI began, Lowder said, Martin approached him, saying he owed $2,295 for expenses Martin incurred on a credit card on Lowder's behalf during the Germany trip.

When asked by his attorney, Wise, why he paid Martin when he thought his share of the trip already had been paid for, Lowder said, "Because he asked me to."

Prosecutors say Lowder paid Martin the $2,295 to make the Germany trip appear legitimate, when it was nothing more than a junket.

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Richard Mills ruled that prosecutors can use some secret tapes of phone conversations between Fleming, Martin and Lowder.

On the tapes, Martin allegedly told Fleming that the government's case against MSI would lead "right up to [Gov.] Edgar's lap."

# Teamsters here put aside disputes during walkout

By Francine Knowles
Business Reporter

Striking UPS Teamsters, who listened to their leader here Wednesday, insisted that disputes among rank-and-file members over union President Ron Carey are being ignored for now, even though some area Teamsters continue to work.

But Teamster Local 710 in Chicago isn't on strike. The local backed Carey's opponent James P. Hoffa in last year's close union presidential election—in which Hoffa drew strong support in the Chicago area and the Midwest.

Local 710 has agreed to honor picket lines as its show of support, said its Secretary-Treasurer Frank Wsol. However, the local's members were conspicuously absent from Wednesday's rally.

Locals 705 and 710 are negotiating separate local contracts with United Parcel Service of America Inc. But Local 705, representing about 11,500 UPS workers, has joined in the national strike.

A majority of its members voted for Carey in the tight race, and made up the bulk of Teamster rank-and-filers at the rally.

Gerald Zero, secretary treasurer of Local 705, noted that some Local 710 members were meeting the company to pick up their work in outlying areas away from pickets set up around the state. Most of that has stopped, however, he said.

Wsol said Wednesday that only about 1 percent of Local 710's estimated 4,300 UPS workers reported to work during the strike.

Teamster Dane Passo, a Hoffa supporter on hand at the rally, said the politics is taking a back seat. "It's a totally separate issue," he said.

Dave Divenere, a UPS package sorter, agreed. "The Hoffa people and Carey people are coming together."

**Contributing:** *Mark Brown*

RICH HEIN/SUN-TIMES

**Richard Rucker, a United Parcel Service worker, cheers at a strike rally Wednesday outside the company's facility at 1400 S. Jefferson.**

# UPS

**Continued from previous page**

the strike late Sunday.

Carey said he is "not particularly optimistic," because Teamsters have seen "no sign that the company has changed its attitude."

Earlier in the day, at a rally outside a UPS facility at 1400 S. Jefferson, Carey told workers that their fight extends beyond UPS workers.

"We're really fighting for America's future."

Carey was joined by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, who told the crowd: "You are not alone. .... The Teamsters have it right. Part-time America just won't work."

Nearly 60 percent of UPS Teamsters work part time and receive less pay and benefits. The union wants more full-time jobs. But the company says its widespread use of part-time workers is necessary because there are peak periods when more workers are needed.

The union also wants pension improvements and a pay hike of $2.60 an hour over four years. UPS proposes $1.50 to $2.50 an hour raises over five years.

Carey and Sweeney were in town for a regional meeting of the AFL-CIO when they broke for the rally. It drew only a few hundred people, but Teamster representatives downplayed the significance of the turnout, noting that many members were on picket lines at other UPS sites.

UPS said Wednesday that the overwhelming majority of Teamsters were still honoring the strike nationwide, although about 5,000 Teamsters crossed picket lines Tuesday, up slightly from between 2,000 and 3,000 Monday.

UPS, which typically handles 12 million parcels and packages a day, continued to operate at about 10 percent capacity Wednesday, as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Retail Federation warned President Clinton of the threat to businesses.

"Approximately $50 billion of the nearly $2.5 trillion in annual retail sales is generated by catalog and mail-order sales," the retail group wrote.

"That number is but a fraction of the untold billions of dollars in goods that are shipped to and from retailers every day. . . . The economy, which is enjoying unprecedented sustained growth, could experience a sudden downward spiral if this strike continues for an extended period."

Clinton said Wednesday he lacked the legal authority to intervene at this time.

**Contributing:** *Associated Press, Bloomberg News*

■ **Strike puts the nation's part-time workers in the spotlight; Page 6.**

## MORNINGLINE

Has the UPS strike inconvenienced you?

**Yes: (312) 408-3641**

**No: (312) 408-3642**

Phone lines open until 5:30 p.m. today. (A charge for a local call to downtown Chicago applies.) Results in Friday's Sun-Times.

## Weather

Sunny today. Highs in the lower 80s, lows in the upper 60s. Continued sunshine Friday. Highs in the upper 80s, lows in the upper 60s. **Details on Page 56.**

Chicago Sun-Times InfoLine (312) 321-2211 Weather Category 2300 and Time Category 8463 (TIME).

## Lotteries

For tickets dated Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1997

**Illinois**
MIDDAY Pick 3—935
MIDDAY Pick 4—0068
EVENING Pick 3—041
EVENING Pick 4—1123
Little Lotto—
04 06 17 24 27
Lotto—
06 20 27 31 41 54
Grand prize: $13 million

**The Big Game**
Grand prize: $5 million

**Indiana**
Pick 3—692 Pick 4—0806
Lucky 5—10 11 17 34 35
Lotto grand prize: $1 mill.

**Michigan**
MIDDAY Daily 3—085
MIDDAY Daily 4—2020
EVENING Daily 3—619
EVENING Daily 4—8130
Cash 5—07 09 21 28 32
Lotto—02 21 27 29 37 48
Lotto grand prize: $2 mill.

**Wisconsin**
Pick 3—555
Super Cash—
03 12 17 19 24 36
Megabucks—
06 10 11 32 34 39
Jackpot: 1 million

**Powerball**
03 06 12 25 45
Powerball No. 10
Jackpot: $5 million

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